



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#81/5 (NE)
JK
121705

In re Application of: Howard Tanner, *et al.*

Divisional Application of
Application No.: 09/108,189 Examiner: J. Thissel

Filed: July 1, 1998 Group: 3763

For: AN INTRODUCER SHEATH FOR USE DURING A SURGICAL
PROCEDURE

Attorney Docket No.: 23660-00611

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sirs:

In response to the Advisory Action mailed on October 24, 2003, please enter the Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") and prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

Conclusion begins on page 12 of this paper.